

Table 26. Infant mortality rates and international rankings: Selected countries, selected years, 1960–98

[Data are based on reporting by countries]

Country ²	1960	1970	1980	1990	1995	1997	1998 ³	International rankings ¹	
								1960	1998
Infant ⁴ deaths per 1,000 live births									
Australia	20.2	17.9	10.7	8.2	5.7	5.3	5.0	5	12
Austria	37.5	25.9	14.3	7.8	5.4	4.7	4.9	25	11
Belgium	31.2	21.1	12.1	8.0	7.0	6.1	5.6	21	19
Bulgaria	45.1	27.3	20.2	14.8	14.8	17.5	14.4	31	36
Canada	27.3	18.8	10.4	6.8	6.0	5.5	5.3	15	15
Chile	125.1	78.8	33.0	16.0	11.1	10.5	10.9	37	34
Costa Rica	67.8	65.4	20.3	15.3	13.3	14.3	12.6	34	35
Cuba	37.3	38.7	19.6	10.7	9.4	7.2	7.1	24	27
Czech Republic	20.0	20.2	16.9	10.8	7.7	5.9	5.2	4	13
Czechoslovakia	23.5	22.1	18.4	11.3	---	---	---	11	---
Denmark	21.5	14.2	8.4	7.5	5.1	5.2	4.7	8	9
England and Wales	21.8	18.2	12.0	7.9	6.1	5.9	5.7	9	21
Finland	21.0	13.2	7.6	5.6	4.0	3.9	4.1	6	5
France	27.5	18.2	10.0	7.3	4.9	4.7	4.6	16	7
Germany ⁵	33.8	23.6	12.6	7.1	5.3	4.8	4.6	22	7
Greece	40.1	29.6	17.9	9.7	8.1	6.4	5.7	26	21
Hong Kong	41.5	19.2	11.2	6.2	4.6	3.9	3.2	27	1
Hungary	47.6	35.9	23.2	14.8	10.7	9.9	9.7	32	32
Ireland	29.3	19.5	11.1	8.2	6.3	6.2	6.2	18	26
Israel ⁶	31.0	22.0	15.6	9.9	6.8	6.4	5.7	20	21
Italy	43.9	29.6	14.6	8.2	6.2	5.6	5.3	30	15
Japan	30.7	13.1	7.5	4.6	4.3	3.7	3.6	19	3
Kuwait	---	39.4	27.7	---	10.9	---	9.4	---	30
Netherlands	17.9	12.7	8.6	7.1	5.5	5.0	5.2	2	13
New Zealand	22.6	16.7	13.0	8.4	6.7	6.8	5.5	10	17
Northern Ireland	27.2	22.9	13.4	7.5	7.1	5.6	5.6	14	19
Norway	18.9	12.7	8.1	7.0	4.1	4.1	4.0	3	4
Poland	54.8	36.7	25.5	19.3	13.6	10.2	9.5	33	31
Portugal	77.5	55.5	24.3	11.0	7.5	6.4	5.9	36	25
Puerto Rico	43.3	27.9	18.5	13.4	12.7	11.3	10.5	28	33
Romania	75.7	49.4	29.3	26.9	21.2	22.0	20.5	35	38
Russian Federation ⁷	---	---	---	17.6	18.2	17.3	16.4	---	37
Scotland	26.4	19.6	12.1	7.7	6.2	5.3	5.5	13	17
Singapore	34.8	21.4	11.7	6.7	4.0	3.8	4.2	23	6
Slovakia	28.6	25.7	20.9	12.0	11.0	8.7	8.8	17	29
Spain	43.7	28.1	12.3	7.6	5.5	5.0	5.7	29	21
Sweden	16.6	11.0	6.9	6.0	4.1	3.6	3.5	1	2
Switzerland	21.1	15.1	9.1	6.8	5.0	4.8	4.8	7	10
United States	26.0	20.0	12.6	9.2	7.6	7.2	7.2	12	28

--- Data not available.

¹Rankings are from lowest to highest infant mortality rates. Some of the variation in infant mortality rates is due to differences among countries in distinguishing between fetal and infant deaths.²Refers to countries, territories, cities, or geographic areas with at least 1 million population and with "complete" counts of live births and infant deaths as indicated in the United Nations Demographic Yearbook.³Data from Kuwait are for 1999. Estimate is provisional.⁴Under 1 year of age.⁵Rates presented for the years prior to the reunification of Germany were calculated by combining information from the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic.⁶Including data for East Jerusalem and Israeli residents in certain other territories under occupation by Israel military forces since June 1967.⁷Excludes infants born alive after less than 28 weeks' gestation, of less than 1,000 grams in weight and 35 centimeters in length, who die within 7 days of birth.

NOTE: Data for additional years are available (see Appendix III).

SOURCES: OECD Health Data 2001, OECD, Paris, A Comparative Analysis of 30 Countries, www.oecd.org/els/health/; United Nations, 2000. Demographic Yearbook—Historical Supplement 1948–1997, CD-ROM, Special Issue; United Nations: Demographic Yearbook 1999. New York; World Health Organization: World Health Statistics Annual. Vols. 1997–1999. Geneva; United States and Puerto Rico: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. *Vital statistics of the United States, vol. II, mortality part A* (selected years). Public Health Service. Washington; Sweden: Statistics Sweden; Dirección General de Estadísticas y Censos. Elaboración y estimación: Centro Centroamericano de Población, Universidad de Costa Rica, <http://populi.eest.ucr.ac.cr/observa/index1.htm>.